

This following is a listing of claims pending in the instant application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) An e-mail communication method comprising the steps of:  
inserting in an e-mail message a voice communications identifier;  
  
transmitting said e-mail message to a recipient; and,  
  
responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier,  
establishing a voice communications link with said recipient.
2. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said  
inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a selectable  
symbol denoting voice communications availability.
3. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said  
inserting step further comprises the step of:  
  
inserting in said e-mail message a reference to a sender of said e-mail message;  
  
and,  
  
embedding computer program code in said e-mail message, wherein said computer  
program code is configured to establish a voice communications link with said sender.

4. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 3, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender.

5. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 3, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, determining a link address for said sender based on said reference, and executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

6. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 5, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

7. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 5, wherein said link address is an IP address.

8. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice

communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

9. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 1, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

10. (Original) An e-mail communication method comprising the steps of:

detecting a voice communications identifier in an e-mail message transmitted by a sender;

responsive to detecting said voice communications identifier, displaying a selectable icon; and,

responsive to a selection of said icon, establishing a voice communications link with said sender.

11. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 10, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of:

extracting from said e-mail message embedded computer program code configured to establish a voice communications link with said sender; and,

responsive to said selection of said icon, executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender.

12. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 11, further comprising the step of extracting an embedded reference to said sender from said e-mail message.

13. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 12, wherein said executing step further comprises the steps of:

determining a link address for said sender based on said extracted reference; and,  
executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

14. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 13, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

15. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 13, wherein said link address is an IP address.

16. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 10, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice

communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

17. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 10, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

18. (Original) The e-mail communications method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

extracting from said e-mail message embedded references to said sender and at least one other recipient of said e-mail message; and,

displaying a corresponding selectable icon for each of said at least one other recipients.

19. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of one of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient and determining a link address for said corresponding recipient based on said extracted reference; and,

executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said corresponding recipient according to said determined link address.

20. (Original) The e-mail communication method of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of two or more of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient for each selected icon and determining a link address for said corresponding recipients based on said extracted references; and,

executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a conference call with said corresponding recipients according to said determined link addresses.

21. (Original) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

inserting in an e-mail message a voice communications identifier;

transmitting said e-mail message to a recipient; and,

responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a voice communications link with said recipient.

22. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of inserting in said e-mail message a selectable symbol denoting voice communications availability.

23. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said inserting step further comprises the step of:

inserting in said e-mail message a reference to a sender of said e-mail message;  
and,

embedding computer program code in said e-mail message, wherein said computer program code is configured to establish a voice communications link with said sender.

24. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 23, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender.

25. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 23, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, determining a link address for said sender based on said

reference, and executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

26. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

27. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said link address is an IP address.

28. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

29. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 21, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).



30. (Currently Amended) A[[n]] machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

detecting a voice communications identifier in an e-mail message transmitted by a sender;

responsive to detecting said voice communications identifier, displaying a selectable icon; and,

responsive to a selection of said icon, establishing a voice communications link with said sender.

31. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 30, wherein said establishing step comprises the steps of:

extracting from said e-mail message embedded computer program code configured to establish a voice communications link with said sender; and,

responsive to said selection of said icon, executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender.

32. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 31, further comprising the step of extracting an embedded reference to said sender from said e-mail message.

33. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 32, wherein said executing step further comprises the steps of:

determining a link address for said sender based on said extracted reference; and,  
executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said sender according to said determined link address.

34. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 33, wherein said link address is a telephone number.

35. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 33, wherein said link address is an IP address.

36. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 30, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice communications identifier, establishing a Voice over IP (VoIP) based voice communications link with said recipient.

37. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 30, wherein said establishing step comprises the step of responsive to said recipient selecting said voice

communications identifier, establishing a telephony-based voice communications link with said recipient over a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

38. (Original) The e-mail communications method of claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

extracting from said e-mail message embedded references to said sender and at least one other recipient of said e-mail message; and,

displaying a corresponding selectable icon for each of said at least one other recipients.

39. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of one of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient and determining a link address for said corresponding recipient based on said extracted reference; and,

executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a voice communications link with said corresponding recipient according to said determined link address.

40. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to a selection of two or more of said selectable icons, identifying a corresponding recipient for each selected icon and determining a link address for said corresponding recipients based on said extracted references; and,

executing said embedded computer program code in order to establish a conference call with said corresponding recipients according to said determined link addresses.

41. (Original) An electronic message article of manufacture for use in a computer communications network comprising:

a message header component encapsulating a reference to at least one of a sending node in the network and a recipient node in the network;

a text message component encapsulating message text which can be extracted from the electronic message and displayed in a message client; and,

an executable voice communications link program component configured to establish a voice communications link between said sending and recipient nodes.

42. (Original) The electronic message article of manufacture of claim 41, wherein said voice communications link is a Voice over IP (VoIP) based communications link.

43. (Original) The electronic message article of manufacture of claim 42, wherein said voice communications link is a telephony-based link

44. (Original) An e-mail client comprising:

a conventional e-mail processor, said conventional e-mail processor extracting and displaying message text encapsulated in a received e-mail; and,

a voice conversation processor, said voice conversation processor identifying a voice communications link identifier encapsulated in said received e-mail, displaying a selectable icon in response to detecting said voice communications link identifier and, responsive to a selection of said selectable icon, establishing a voice communications link with a sender of said received e-mail.